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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, January 2, 1980 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended December 22 totaled an estimated 17.6 billion ton-miles, 2.0 percent above the corresponding week of 1978, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 51 weeks of 1979 was an estimated 890 billion ton-miles, 5.5 percent above the comparable period of the preceding year.

Carloadings in the week ended December 22 totaled 459,567 cars, 1.0 percent below 1978, and 1.7 percent lower than the preceding week of 1979. Compared with 1979, loadings were up 0.8 percent in the South, and 2.9 percent in the West, but down 7.8 percent in the East.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1978, 15 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings were up 8,923 cars, or 8.7 percent and grain increased 7,775 cars, or 29.7 percent. Thirteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of 1979.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended December 15 totaled 36,939 cars, down 4.2 percent from the corresponding week of 1978, and 66,147 trailers and/or containers, virtually the same as in 1978.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 50 weeks of 1979 was 1,798,831 cars, 1.3 percent higher than 1978, and 3,174,785 trailers and/or containers, up 3.5 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 12/22.[1]

	Loadings in Week ended December 22, 1979	Change from Corresponding Week 1978		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars	Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	33,921	I 7,775	29.7	I 1,883	5.9
Other farm products	4,283	D 959	18.3	D 789	15.6
Metallic ores	29,229	D 3,225	9.9	D 2,964	9.2
Coal	111,205	I 8,923	8.7	D 2,076	1.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,225	D 2,532	17.2	D 2,576	17.4
Nonmetallic minerals	14,894	I 1,332	9.8	I 554	3.9
Grain mill products	18,571	D 860	4.4	I 330	1.8
Food and kindred products	19,774	I 821	4.3	I 912	4.8
Primary forest products	20,631	D 360	1.7	D 815	3.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	11,547	D 964	7.7	I 1,337	13.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	22,515	I 1,194	5.6	I 1,057	4.9
Chemicals and allied products	29,154	I 893	3.2	I 898	3.2
Petroleum products	6,264	D 784	11.1	D 357	5.4
Stone, clay and glass products	16,124	D 1,296	7.4	D 503	3.0
Coke	5,595	D 1,939	25.7	I 243	4.5
Metals and products	16,379	D 3,555	17.8	D 167	1.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	16,789	D 6,501	27.9	D 3,870	18.7
Waste and scrap materials	13,351	D 988	6.9	D 192	1.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	12,049	D 102	0.8	D 636	5.0
All other carloads	44,852	D 1,204	2.6	D 233	0.5
LCL traffic	215	D 216	50.1	D 31	12.6
Total Cars Loaded	459,567	D 4,547	1.0	D 7,995	1.7
Corresponding week of 1978	464,114				

	1979	1978	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (51 weeks)	23,570,389	23,017,369	I 2.4
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
50 weeks cumulative	872.8	827.1	I 5.5
Week ended December 22	17.6	17.3	I 2.0
51 weeks cumulative	890.4	844.4	I 5.5

[1] The figures include 12 railroads no longer considered Class I roads when the qualifying requirement for Class I companies was raised by the ICC from $10 million to $50 million in annual operating revenues as of January 1, 1978.

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